

DISCUSSION GUIDE

TITLE: *Great Disciples (Part 1)*

MAIN TEXT: Matthew 17:22-27

SPEAKER: Pastor Chad Gilligan

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1. Great Disciples Take Up Their Cross

READ: Matthew 16:24-25; Matthew 17:22-23; Luke 9:45; Philippians 3:10-11

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- What does it mean in today's world to "take up your cross"?
- How have you experienced both loss and gain as you've followed Jesus?
- Why do you think discipleship is described as a process of "death and resurrection"?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Share a time when following Jesus required sacrifice. How did God use that experience to grow your faith?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Being a disciple means choosing Jesus over self. In both sacrifice and blessing, God uses our surrender to shape us into Christ's likeness.

2. Great Disciples Find Their Identity in Christ Jesus

READ: Matthew 17:24–26; Romans 8:1–2; Ephesians 1:3–6; Ephesians 2:10

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How does your identity in Christ free you from condemnation, insecurity, or fear about the future?
- Why is it important to remind ourselves daily of who we are in Christ?
- Which of the passages about identity (Romans 8, Ephesians 1, or Ephesians 2) speaks most to you right now?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

In what area of your life do you need to replace insecurity with confidence in who God says you are?

KEY TAKEAWAYS:

Great disciples root their identity in Christ, not in past mistakes, present struggles, or future uncertainty. In Him, we are forgiven, chosen, and equipped for His purpose.

3. Great Disciples Lay Down Their Rights

READ: Matthew 17:27; 1 Corinthians 8:9; Philippians 2:3–5

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- Why can laying down our rights be so difficult, especially in today's culture?
- How do humility and love for others shape the way we use our freedom?
- Can you think of a time when surrendering your "right" led to peace or unity instead of conflict?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

Where might God be asking you to put others first, even when it costs you something personally?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

Discipleship means putting others above ourselves. We may give up rights or preferences for the sake of love, humility, and the gospel's witness.

4. Great Disciples Trust Jesus To Provide

READ: Matthew 17:27; Philippians 4:19

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- How have you experienced God's provision when you surrendered something to Him?
- Why is trusting God to provide often harder than trying to provide for ourselves?
- What does this passage show us about Jesus' awareness of our needs?

FOLLOW-UP PROMPT:

What is one area where you need to trust God's provision instead of relying on your own strength or resources?

KEY TAKEAWAY:

When we surrender to Jesus, He is faithful to meet our needs. Great disciples live in trust, knowing that His provision is always enough.

REFLECTION & PRAYER

CLOSING THOUGHT:

Great discipleship requires surrender -of our desires, identity, rights, and control. But in exchange, Jesus gives us purpose, identity, provision, and life.

SUGGESTED PRAYER:

"Lord, thank You for calling us to be Your disciples. Help us take up our cross daily, find our identity in You, walk in humility, and trust in Your provision. Teach us to follow You with surrendered hearts. Amen."